

And a lot of these players are champions off the field.

And I thank you for your commitment. I thank you for your dedication to a great sport. I congratulate and thank your families for hanging in with you in this long, 162-game season. I wish you all the best in the upcoming year, and it's my great honor to welcome you back to the White House as the World Series champs.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:08 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his

remarks, he referred to Tim Wakefield, Daisuke Matsuzaka, Josh Beckett, Curt Schilling, Mike Timlin, Jonathan Papelbon, and Jon Lester, pitchers; Doug Mirabelli and Jason Varitek, catchers; Larry Lucchino, president and chief executive officer; Terry Francona, manager; Mike Lowell, Kevin Youkilis, and Dustin Pedroia, infielders; David A. "Big Papi" Ortiz, designated hitter; and Manny Ramirez, outfielder; Boston Red Sox; and Jacque Francona, wife of Terry Francona.

Statement on the Death of William F. Buckley, Jr. *February 27, 2008*

America has lost one of its finest writers and thinkers. Bill Buckley was one of the great founders of the modern conservative movement. He brought conservative thought into the political mainstream and helped lay the intellectual foundation for America's victory in the cold war and for the conservative movement that continues to this day. He will be remembered for

his principled thought and beautiful writing, as well as his personal warmth, wit, and generous spirit. His legacy lives on in the ideas he championed and in the magazine he founded, *National Review*.

Laura and I send our prayers to Chris Buckley, the Buckley family, and all who loved this good man.

The President's News Conference *February 28, 2008*

The President. Good morning. Laura and I, as you know, recently came back from Africa, where we saw firsthand how the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief is saving lives. I had a chance to go to the—speak to the Sullivan Foundation the other day about our trip, and the reason I did so was to remind the American people about how important it is for our Nation to remain generous and compassionate when it comes to helping people overseas.

I also during my trip urged Congress to reauthorize the emergency plan and increase our commitment, and they did. They

approved a good, bipartisan bill that maintains the principles that have made this program effective. And so I want to thank Acting Chairman Howard Berman and Ranking Member Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and all the members of the committee for the action they took. This afternoon they're going to come down, and I'll be able to thank them in person. And I'm going to brief them on the trip. The—obviously, our hope is now that the House will act quickly and send the bill reauthorizing PEPFAR to the Senate. And I'd like to sign it into law as quickly as possible.